

City of San Diego Public Utilities RESIDENTIAL OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION REBATE PROGRAM

Smart Controller Rebate Guidelines Rebate – Up to \$400

Did you know that more than 50% of the water consumed by most households is used to maintain landscapes and lawns? You can help reduce your outdoor water use, keep your landscape more attractive and healthy--and save money on your water bill--by upgrading to a Smart Controller. City of San Diego Public Utilities Department customers residing in a single family home, duplex, townhome, or condominium that is served by an individual water meter can receive a rebate for upgrading to a Smart Controller. Funding for a limited number of rebates is available through a State of California Prop 50 grant and the City's Storm Water Department, and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. This program is subject to change without prior notification. Read below for program requirements and application process. A Rebate check will be sent to the customer of record 6-8 weeks after application and post-installation site visit are successfully completed. If you have questions after reading these guidelines, please call 619-533-7485 or e-mail waterconservationrebates@sandiego.gov.

City of San Diego customers **cannot** participate in the City's Outdoor Water Conservation Rebate Program for Smart Controllers if they have already received a rebate for the WBIC/Smart Controller through Southern California MWD SoCalWaterSmart regional rebate program. Original receipts are required as part of the application process for the City's Smart Controller rebate program.

Applicant's water account must be in good standing and program requirements must be met to be eligible for rebates. Customer must agree to and sign the application agreement before rebate is administered. Changes made at property related to rebate program must comply with all applicable laws, codes, policies, covenants, conditions, and restrictions. Please consult with a tax advisor for questions regarding any potential tax implications associated with rebates.

Rebate Process:

1. **Get an application...** Visit the City of San Diego's [Water Conservation Website](#) to download the Residential Outdoor Rebate Application.
2. **Schedule a pre-site inspection...** Call 619-570-1999 to schedule a free water conservation survey and pre-site inspection. A City Water Conservation Program representative must conduct the inspection prior to installation of Smart Controller.
3. **Install Smart Controller, then mail in application...** Purchase any Smart Controller on the [SWAT \(Smart Water Application Technology\) list of tested devices](#) and install it. If a rain sensor is part of unit it must be installed. Unit must be properly programmed. Complete the application and return it to the Water Conservation Program with the original sales receipt, any original service invoices and a copy of your water bill.



4. **Have a post-installation site visit...** After completed application is received, a City scheduler will call you to set up a post-installation site visit. A Water Conservation Program representative will verify that the system is properly installed.
5. **Receive a rebate...** Once application is deemed complete and post-installation site visit is successfully completed, please allow 6-8 weeks for the rebate check to arrive in the mail.

Program Requirements:

- Smart Controller must be on the [SWAT list of tested devices to be eligible](#) for a rebate on the purchase price of device(s). Total rebate amount will not exceed the cost of the device (excluding sales tax and labor costs) up to a maximum of \$400 per account. Rebate does not apply to signal fee.
- Site must have at least 500 SF of existing irrigated landscape area and have an existing in-ground irrigation system
- Smart Controllers serving more than 2,000 SF of existing irrigated landscape may receive up to \$400 rebate.
- Smart Controllers serving 500-1,999 SF of existing landscape may receive up to \$200 rebate.
- The Smart Controller must replace an existing operable non-weather based irrigation controller.
- A water conservation survey and/or pre-site inspection is required. A post-installation site inspection is also required. An on-site consultation at the post-installation site visit will be available to customers interested in learning how to program and operate their Smart Controller(s) (available only for certain types of controllers). This valuable consultation is highly recommended.
- Completed rebate application along with *original* paid invoices and/or receipts. Sales tax and labor costs are not eligible. Sales receipt(s)/invoices must include smart controller purchase date, price, make, and model numbers. Sales receipts/invoices must also include the name, address and telephone number of the vendor.



What are Smart Controllers and how do they work?

Smart Controllers, also known as weather based irrigation controllers (WBICs), use site-specific information to automatically adjust the amount of water applied to the landscape. Sensor-based Smart Controllers use on-site weather or solar sensors to create irrigation schedules. Signal-based Smart Controllers rely on daily weather updates received from satellite signals or Internet connection to create schedules.

Benefits of converting to a Smart Controller:

A Smart Controller can increase outdoor water use efficiency by monitoring and using information about site conditions (such as solar radiation, rain, wind, slope, soil, plant type) to apply the right amount of water to landscapes and help minimize unwanted runoff caused by overwatering. By setting the device for a default maximum watering time based on the hottest time of year, irrigation run times are automatically reduced when less water is needed. If significant rainfall occurs, the device's rain sensor signals a delay or reduction in watering. If the property contains steep slopes or a soil type that absorbs water slowly, the Smart Controller can transmit multiple start times to irrigate efficiently while minimizing the potential for run-off.

How much water do Smart Controllers save?

A well-maintained Smart Controller used to irrigate the average home garden can reduce overwatering by an estimated 40 gallons per day.

Costs that are covered by the Smart Controller rebate:

Rebate covers the purchase price of one SWAT tested Smart Controller up to a maximum of \$400 per address. Rebate does not apply to signal fee, sales tax and labor costs are not eligible for rebate. Total rebate amount will not exceed the cost of the device. Original paid Smart Controller sales receipt(s) from the vendor and/or any original service invoices from landscape professional must be submitted with the application.

Mailing and Contact Information:

Please mail completed application and original paid invoices and/or sales receipts to:

**City of San Diego Public Utilities Department
Residential Outdoor Water Conservation Program
525 B Street, Suite 300
San Diego, CA 92101**

Questions:

E-Mail: waterconservationrebates@sandiego.gov

Or call: (619) 533-4126

